

Natural Resource News

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Fremont-Winema National Forests
Lakeview District BLM
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USDA's Fremont-Winema National Forests
(Includes Bly, Chemult, Chiloquin, Klamath, Lakeview, Paisley, and Silver Lake Ranger Districts)
USDI's Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District
(Includes Klamath Falls and Lakeview Resource Areas)

For Immediate Release

RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET IN LAKEVIEW

Lakeview, Oregon June 26, 2003 – The Winema and Fremont Resource Advisory Committee will be meeting in Lakeview on July 2 and 3 to evaluate more than 60 project proposals. The committee, operating under the provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, is responsible for recommending projects that will put people to work at the business of restoring watershed conditions on federal lands in Lake and Klamath Counties. This coming year, about \$2.4 million is available for these projects.

The Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is chaired by Lakeview High School biology teacher Clair Thomas, and includes representatives from a broad range of interests, including ranchers and lumber mills, local and regional environmental groups, labor unions, Indian tribes, and local elected officials. The group was formed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in January of 2002, and is chartered as a federal advisory committee with the charge of improving cooperative relationships among those that use federal lands and the land management agencies.

According to Bill Aney, the Forest Service Representative working with the Winema and Fremont RAC, this will be the third round of project proposals that the RAC has evaluated, and so far 56 resource management projects in the two counties have either been completed or are currently underway. Aney explained, "The emphasis of this RAC has been on watershed restoration projects that put local people to work. Most of the projects the RAC has approved have been awarded to contractors from Lake and Klamath Counties, and the projects have tended to be high-priority work that the Forest Service has not been able to get funded".

The meeting in Lakeview will be at the Interagency Office south of Lakeview on Highway 395. Wednesday's meeting starts at 10:00 a.m., and Thursday's meeting starts at 8:00 a.m. All Resource Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public, and time is made available for public comment and input.

Questions should be directed to Aney at the Paisley Ranger District, (541) 943-4401.

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